

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 221230Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8272

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0703

EXDIS

PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR DAY IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR

SUBJECT: POSSIOLE VATICAN STATEMENT ON LEBANESE CRISIS

1. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, WE FEAR EXTREME STATEMENTS MADE BY CHAMOUN AND HARD-NOSE ATTITUDE PHALANGE RANK AND FILE CONSTITUTE GRAVE RISK TO FRANGIE-ASAD EFFORTS REACH COMPROMISE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF LEBANESE CRISIS. ADDED TO THIS HAS BEEN STRONG STATEMENT BY PATRIARCH DEPLORING DAMOUR EVENTS AND APPEALING, INTER ALIA, TO POPE.

2. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND IN INTEREST OF SAFEGUARDING WHAT MIGHT BE LEBANESE LAST CHANCE REACH POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BEFORE MORE SERIOUS MILITARY ESCALATION, WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CONSIDER IMMEDIATE APPROACH TO VATICAN WITH SUGGESTION THAT POPE MIGHT WISH TO MAKE STATEMENT WHICH, WHILE DEPLORING GENERAL BLOODSHED (HE COULD TIE STATEMENT IN WITH PATRIARCH'S) WOULD EXPRESS SPECIFIC SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT FRANGIE'S EFFORTS IN ATTEMPTING TO REACH POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

3. VATICAN BLESSING OF FRANGIE ENDEAVOR COULD WELL SERVE TO STRENGTHEN FRANGIE'S HAD VIS-A-VIS MORE EXTREMIST CHRISTIAN LEADERS AT A TIME WHEN HE MOST NEEDS IT. MOREOVER, VATICAN MIGHT WELL BE PREPARED A REPLY TO PATRIARCH'S

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STATEMENT AND WE COULD THUS GET IN OUR THINKING BEFORE IT

WAS ISSUED.

LAMBRAKIS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, RELIGIOUS LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** vogelfj  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** POSSJOLE VATICAN STATEMENT ON LEBANESE CRISIS  
**TAGS:** PINS, PFOR, LE, VT  
**To:** STATE  
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